

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2008

In attendance: Dawn Lewis, Faith Levesque, Peter Bolduc, Gene Cordes, Robert Larson and Cheryl Rowell

Meeting started at 7:03 PM at the Fremont Town Hall

❖ Old Business

➤ **Minutes** from meeting held September, 2008 were accepted.

➤ Ellis School

▪ Energy Saving ~ Green Projects

- Safe Routes to School project held a kick off event where approximately 250 were in attendance – Carol Foley (a teacher at Ellis) has initiated this effort and is hoping to be awarded a grant.
- The Ellis greenhouse (built by the Timberland Co.) is in with Middle School teacher John Herrmann at the helm. The students are growing greens and herbs which they are using for lunches at Ellis. In addition to the greens, students will be growing seedlings to sell in the spring.
- Elementary students are making their own cleaning agents.
- Fundraiser will be held selling Ellis Go Green shopping bags.
- The compost program is being refined so that more waste from the lunches will be composted – compost tumblers are being looked into.
- A second grade classroom is growing red worms as part of a conservation project.
- Wilson Educational Services awarded the school a grant and will be doing energy audits as well as working with the students.

▪ Ellis School Green Fair

- To be held on February 7th, 2009.
- Would like to involve all of the Ellis community – looking for ideas to do this.
- Inviting solar vendors, Carbon Coalition and / or Clean Air – Cool Planet, etc.
- NH Carbon Challenge ~ would like to have NH residents commit to making changes to reduce their carbon emissions. This group gives direction to those interested. Can this be integrated into the Green Fair?
- Suggestion: have vendors make a contribution instead of charging them a fee for ex. free light bulbs to attendees.

➤ Energy Audits

- Kathleen Lewis from PSNH should get back to Bob Larson about energy audits for the town buildings – Bob can not find any organization that will do free audits for the town.

- Cheryl Rowell will follow up with the Jordan Institute. They will come and review the school. Cheryl has been in contact, but they have not returned her emails.
- Committee members discussed if there is a way to have energy audits done on homes where there is heating assistance to help the owners reduce fuel/energy costs?

➤ **Warrant Articles**

- David West, Rockingham County Planner was contacted by Gene Cordes asking him to take a look at energy ordinances to see what is in place, and what has already been adopted.
- The Fremont Selectmen support the general concept of a town ordinance supporting tax credits for energy efficient modifications for Fremont homes.

➤ **Grants**

- New England Grassroots Environmental Fund (www.grassrootsfund.org)
 - Committee meets on Nov. 13th – Fremont Energy Committee should know if they will be awarded a grant by Nov. 20th.
- Rockingham County has grants available through the county planner.
 - Approx. \$12,000 available
 - Not sure what the grant entails
 - Gene Cordes will speak with David West about the requirements and time frame.

❖ **New Business/Discussion**

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Gene Cordes brought forth discussion about a “Volunteer Job Fair” for Fremont. It is felt that by “advertising” for volunteers and noting specific tasks for these offices that the town will fill some vacant volunteer positions. It is hoped that this will help build community. Members felt that this was a good idea. Details will be determined.

❖ **Meeting adjourned**

- ~8:15 PM. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2008; 7 PM at the Fremont Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rowell